

In re Application of: Elan ZIV
Serial No.: 10/598,872
Filed: May 18, 2007
Office Action Mailing Date: 29 April 2010

Examiner: Catherine E. Burk
Group Art Unit: 3735
Attorney Docket: 34061
Confirmation No.: 1651

What is claimed:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus arranged around a central axis for treating urinary incontinence, said apparatus being sized and shaped for human intra-vaginal insertion, comprising:

a node located on the central axis;

a support section adapted for providing urethral support attached to said node;
and

an anchoring section adapted for resisting movement of said apparatus attached to said node, when in said vagina;

wherein said node is no longer than 30% of the entire length of said apparatus comprising said node, support section and said anchoring section together.

2. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said node is no longer than 20% of the entire length of said apparatus for treating urinary incontinence.

3. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 2 wherein said node is no longer than 15% of the entire length of said apparatus for treating urinary incontinence.

4. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support section is provided with at least 2 supporting arms.

5. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said anchoring section is provided with at least 2 anchoring arms.

6. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a cover.

7. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 6, wherein said cover substantially encapsulates said node, support section and said anchoring section.

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8. (Currently amended) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least said support section and said anchoring section are flexible.

9. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least said node is flexible.

10. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a device displacer.

11. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 10 wherein said device displacer is attached to said support section.

12. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 4 further comprising support struts interlinking said supporting arms.

13. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an applicator adapted to insert said apparatus into a vagina.

14. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is symmetrically arranged around the central axis.

15. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein the length of the apparatus is 50mm or less.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein for treating urinary incontinence, comprising:

——— a said support section is adapted for providing urethral support using a plurality of outwardly extending arms; and comprising

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an extending insert adapted to increase the diameter of said support section by outwardly urging the arms.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a cover configured to provide urethral support, thereby applying force on said urethra only during an increase in intra-abdominal pressure.

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 18 wherein said cover substantially encapsulates said support section and said extending insert.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a device displacer.

21. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 20 wherein said device displacer is attached to said support section.

22. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an applicator adapted to insert said apparatus into a vagina.

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~for treating urinary incontinence, wherein said support section comprises comprising:~~
~~a body provided with~~ a plurality of arms adapted for rendering urethral support for treating incontinence when inserted in a vagina, and comprising:
 an arm collapser; and
 a device displacer coupled to the arm collapser which when pulled causes: a) the arms to collapse; and b) the apparatus to displace.

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24. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said device displacer is a string.

25. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said apparatus is flexible and distorted by said string.

26. (Currently amended) A method of using an apparatus for the treatment of urinary incontinence, comprising:

providing an apparatus arranged around a central axis for treating urinary incontinence, said apparatus being sized and shaped for human intra-vaginal insertion, comprising:

a node located on the central axis;

a support section adapted for providing urethral support attached to said node;

and

an anchoring section adapted for resisting movement of said apparatus attached to said node, when in said vagina;

wherein said node is no longer than 30% of the entire length of said apparatus comprising said node, support section and said anchoring section together;

inserting said incontinence treating apparatus; and

deploying said incontinence treating apparatus in a position to render mid-urethral support.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein inserting is facilitated by an applicator.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 further comprising removing said apparatus.

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29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein said removing is facilitated by a device displacer.

30. (Currently amended) An apparatus for inserting an expanding and anchoring vaginal device having a preferred deployment location, comprising:

an enclosure for containing an intra-vaginal device according to claim 1~~said vaginal device~~; and

a stopper, wherein said stopper prevents over insertion and wherein said stopper is adjustably positioned on an exterior of said enclosure.

31. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 further comprising a plurality of selectable positions located on said apparatus such that, upon adjustably positioning said stopper in one of said positions, insertion of said apparatus into said vagina up to said stopper will result in the apparatus being in an appropriate position within said vagina for deployment.

32. (New) An apparatus of claim 4, wherein said arms are configured to lie on either side of a urethra.

33. (New) An apparatus of claim 4, wherein said support section is provided with at least 4 supporting arms.

34. (New) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support section defines at least one channel allowing flow of vaginal secretions past said apparatus.

35. (New) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said length of said apparatus and said sizes of said support section and anchoring section are configured to provide mid-urethral support to a urethra.

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36. (New) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support section has a first maximal diameter and said node has a second maximal diameter and said anchor section has a third maximal diameter and wherein the first maximal diameter and the third maximal diameters are greater than the second maximal diameter.

37. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein deploying comprises not applying enough pressure to said vagina to cause discomfort or to block said urethra absent an increase in intra-abdominal pressure.